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 FM THE SITUATION ROOM
 TO AMEMBASSY CAIRO

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~~TOP SECRET SENSITIVE CONTAINS CODEWORD EXCLUSIVELY EYES ONLY~~
~~DELIVER AT OPENING OF BUSINESS WH43148~~

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PASS TO BREMER/GOMPERT FOR THE SECRETARY
 NOVEMBER 6, 1974

State Dept. review completed

MEMORANDUM FOR SECRETARY KISSINGER

FROM: THE SITUATION ROOM

ON-FILE NSC RELEASE
INSTRUCTIONS APPLY

SUBJECT: INFORMATION ITEMS

SYRIAN VIEWS: ILLUSTRATIVE OF REPORTS ON SYRIAN THINKING IN
 ADVANCE OF YOUR VISIT.

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THE SYRIAN LEADERSHIP AS EXTREMELY PESSIMISTIC ABOUT THE
 CHANCES OF AN EARLY NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT BECAUSE OF ISRAELI
 UNWILLINGNESS TO WITHDRAW FURTHER FROM GOLAN AND U.S. UNWILLING-
 NESS OR INABILITY TO PRESSURE ISRAEL TO DO SO. THE SYRIANS ARE
 THUS SAID TO FEEL THEY WILL HAVE TO STIMULATE THIS PRESSURE BY
 REFUSING TO RENEW UNDOF UNLESS THE GENEVA TALKS ARE RECONVENED
 AND THERE ARE TANGIBLE INDICATIONS THAT MIDEAST PEACE INITIATIVES
 ARE PROGRESSING.

THE SYRIANS UNDERSTAND
 THAT FAILURE TO RENEW UNDOF WILL PROBABLY MEAN RENEWED FIGHTING
 IN THE GOLAN AREA. HOWEVER, ASAD WANTS TO RESOLVE THE GOLAN
 PROBLEM AND BELIEVES THAT UNLESS THE SYRIANS PUSH THE ISRAELIS
 OUT OF THE AREA THEY WILL REMAIN THERE INDEFINITELY.

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REPORTS THAT THE SYRIANS ESTIMATE RENEWED FIGHTING IN GOLAN
 ONLY APPEAR OPTIMISTIC, GIVEN THE PROBABLE ISRAELI REACTION TO
 ANY SYRIAN PROVOCATION. REPORTING FROM TEL AVIV SAYS THAT IN
 THE PAST FEW DAYS THE ISRAELI PRESS HAS BEEN DEBATING WHAT WOULD
 CONSTITUTE A CASUS BELLII. (HOUGHTON/NIEHUSS)

REPORTS THE BRITISH WILL ABROGATE SIMONSTOWN PACT WITH SOUTH
 AFRICA: OUR EMBASSY IN CAPE TOWN REPORTS THAT, ACCORDING TO
 THE SOUTH AFRICAN PRESS, THE LABOR GOVERNMENT HAS DECIDED TO
 END THE SIMONSTOWN AGREEMENT (PERMITTING UK NAVY THE USE OF
 PORT FACILITIES). THE DECISION WAS REPORTEDLY TAKEN LAST WEEK
 AND LEAKED TO THE PRESS TO MOLLIFY BROWNING ANGER IN THE LEFT WING
 OF THE LABOR PARTY. THE ARTICLE CONTINUED THAT U.S. DEFENSE
 DEPARTMENT OFFICIALS "ADMITTED" THE U.S. WOULD VERY MUCH LIKE
 TO USE SIMONSTOWN.

OTHER RECENT SOUTH AFRICAN NEWS STORIES CLAIM THE U.S. HAS PRI-
 VATELY WARNED BRITAIN OF THE "SERIOUS CONSEQUENCES OF ABROGATING
 THE AGREEMENT. ONE STORY SAYS THE STATE DEPARTMENT IS SAID TO BE
 DOING EVERYTHING IN ITS POWER TO STOP ANY SUCH BRITISH MOVE, WHICH
 IS REGARDED AS MADNESS." THE DEPARTMENT, IN RESPONSE TO EMBASSY
 REQUESTS FOR GUIDANCE AUTHORIZED INTERESTED POSTS TO SAY THE
 U.S. GOVERNMENT HAS NOT ENCOURAGED THE UK TO MAINTAIN THE SIMONS-
 TOWN AGREEMENT, AND HAS NOT ENCOURAGED THE UK TO COLLABORATE WITH
 SOUTH AFRICAN NAVAL FORCES. (HORAN)

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